



CANNON BUILDING
861 SILVER LAKE BLVD., SUITE 203
DOVER, DELAWARE 19904-2467

STATE OF DELAWARE
BOARD OF NURSING
Assistance with Self-Administration of Medications
Committee

TELEPHONE: (302) 744-4500
FAX: (302) 739-2711
WEBSITE: DPR.DELAWARE.GOV
EMAIL: customerservice.dpr@state.de.us

AWSAM COMMITTEE Minutes
(Approved January 20, 2015)

The AWSAM Committee held a meeting on October 14, 2014 at 3:30 P.M. in Conference Room A, Cannon Building, 861 Silver Lake Blvd, Dover, Delaware.

PRESENT: Pam Tyranski, Mary Peterson, Sandra Robinson, Ann Blackmore, Alicia Kluger, Maxine Travis, Agnes Richardson, Sarah Carmody, Linda Wolfe, Yrene Waldron (telephone)

ABSENT: Vickie Cox

GUESTS: Sharon Bilbrough; Meg Tallman; Brandi Patterson

PRESIDING: Pam Tyranski

STAFF: Pamela Zickafoose, Executive Director, Delaware Board of Nursing
Jennifer Singh, Deputy Attorney General

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Tyranski called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm. Members of the committee introduced themselves to the public.

REVIEW OF MINUTES: Minutes from September 16, 2014 were reviewed. Ms. Blackmore made a motion to approve as written, seconded by Ms. Robinson. With Ms. Carmody abstaining, the motion carried by majority vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Talking Points

Members reviewed the latest first draft of the "Talking Points." Ms. Blackmore motioned to change the wording in the next to last bullet to reorder the statement for clarity, seconded by Ms. Waldron. By unanimous vote the motion carried. Ms. Wolfe motioned to remove the word "schools" under the third from last bullet, seconded by Ms. Kluger. By unanimous vote, the motion carried. Ms. Carmody recommended a word change in the second bullet. After much discussion, Ms. Peterson made a motion to strike the last six words of the second bullet, seconded by Ms. Blackmore. By unanimous vote the motion carried. Dr. Zickafoose will make the changes and add a date at the bottom of the page. Members agreed this was the final version of the document.

Educational Platform

Dr. Zickafoose reported there was no action on this item and it was tabled.

NEW BUSINESS:

Meeting with Ms. Showalter

Ms. Showalter provided an overview of her role as Director of Medicaid Fraud for the Department of Justice. She explained there were four divisions in the DOJ- Criminal, Civil, Family, and Fraud. She has been in this position about 4 ½ years. This division investigates all healthcare fraud in the Medicaid program. Examples included elder abuse and neglect, and drug diversion in all facilities with Medicaid funding. For the last 2 ½ years the division has focused on the prescription drug epidemic in DE with much progress via legislation, the prescription drug monitoring program, pharmaceutical companies and public health involvement. However, the state is now seeing the shift to an increase in Heroin use and Delaware is working on this including the addition of more treatment facilities. Addiction is a disease that needs to be treated.

Members of the committee introduced themselves to Ms. Showalter and Ms. Tyranski provided an overview of the committee's progress. She stated the current AWSAM program had changed and was being utilized in more community settings and other populations than originally intended. Ms. Blackmore explained this was originally intended for residential day care facilities and she stated the loss of the nurses in these facilities was a great loss 30 years ago. This is how AWSAM was started. Ms. Tyranski also explained the curriculum had been updated and a generic core curriculum was developed to be used in all settings. Then additional specific modules could be developed for settings with unique needs. The LLAM Bill, Talking Points and proposed regulations were shared with Ms. Showalter.

Discussion continued with Ms. Showalter asking who will oppose this legislation. Ms. Wolfe stated the schools will still be assisting because their nurses are available during the school day so this new program only applies to events outside the traditional school day. Ms. Blackmore added that the child care providers may resist since they are accustomed to being trained once without annual updates. Ms. Showalter also asked who was affected by this legislation and members discussed all the entities, and specified that no new entities were being added. The intention of the legislation is to tighten up the current practice while meeting the needs of patients and reducing costs. Ms. Peterson explained that facilities licensing currently reviews documents pertaining to AWSAM and this practice would not change. Ms. Travis added that her division also conducts investigations. Ms. Kluger added that the Board of Pharmacy regulation 12 was updated so that pharmacists have an increased responsibility with additional safeguards. Members also emphasized that the prescribing practitioner must be sure the prescription is accurate and the pharmacists must be sure they fill it correctly. This is NOT a delegated activity and the UAPs are not responsible for assessment. Ms. Showalter asked about the cost of implementation. Members agreed there might be some additional cost for annual renewals in some areas but this should be included in the cost of doing business and safeguarding clients.

Ms. Showalter concluded saying it was wonderful that so many state agencies/entities have worked together on this legislation including DHSS, DOE, DSYFC, DHCFA, DNA, etc. She complemented the group for all their hard work and stated she would review the documents provided and let Dr. Zickafoose know if she had any additional questions/comments.

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Legislative Memo from Mr. Mangler

Ms. Tyranski informed the committee she drafted a letter to go with the LLAM bill legislation to Mr. Mangler. Ms. Peterson stated when she first revised the statute for the draft LLAM Bill, she included a cover letter that detailed the history of the legislation. Dr. Zickafoose will review this cover letter to be sure the memo for Mr. Mangler is inclusive of the history. Ms. Blackmore made a motion to submit the memo and bill to Mr. Mangler for introduction in the next legislative session, seconded by Ms. Peterson. By unanimous vote, the motion carried. Dr. Zickafoose asked Ms. Wolfe if she would update the committee on the DOE regulations. She stated the DOE is proposing changes to address injectables and emergency medications and she will be meeting with the DAG next week. If all goes as planned the regulations should be in place prior to the LLAM bill going forward.

Implementation Plan

Committee members discussed how the information pertaining to LLAM would be shared with the entities currently using AWSAM, after the legislation passes. All agreed the best way to distribute the new curriculum and policies was by using the distribution lists from the licensing agencies. Ms. Peterson and Ms. Travis agreed this would be effective. Ms. Waldron would provide the information to the Assisted Living facilities. Ms. Carmody offered to put a notice on the DNA website as well. Ms. Blackmore stated there were two directions needed- one for the facilities and then how to train the trainers. Ms. Singh added that the rules grandfather the current trainers so they would need to review the new materials and start using them. Ms. Tyranski noted there were changes in the curriculum to make it more consistent with current practice, but the changes were not too difficult for current instructors to teach. Instructors will be expected to start training with the new materials as soon as feasible for their organization. Modules will need to be submitted to the Board of Nursing for entity specific information. The Board will approve modules prior to their use. Members agreed it would be a good idea to develop a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) to assist with implementation. This will be added to the agenda for the next meeting and members were to think of questions needed.

Members also discussed the timeframe for implementation and agreed they could not attach a specific date by which the new curriculum must be implemented. Once the legislation passes (anywhere from January to June 2015), then the Board of Nursing rules must be promulgated which takes several months. Then the entities must submit modules. Dr. Zickafoose stated she talked with a DSAMH facility and suggested they start working on their module. Ms. Singh added that it is not recommended to put a date in legislation understanding that promulgation of rules takes time. Ms. Tyranski asked if Town Hall meetings were needed. Ms. Waldron suggested a conference. Many ideas are being considered with the knowledge that a Public Hearing for the rules could be quite large. Members were asked to think about this for their entities and to bring back what might work at the next meeting, both generic and site specific. Ms. Carmody concluded that the use of a FAQ sheet could include this information.

Stakeholder Outreach

Members discussed that distribution to the agencies will show who was not included and who should have been.

OTHER BUSINESS before the committee (for discussion only): None

PUBLIC COMMENT- Ms. Tallman thanked the committee, on behalf of her 15 year old daughter with Type 1 Diabetes, for their efforts and she stressed the urgency of getting this legislation done because her daughter graduates in 2017. She mentioned one line item in the legislation is currently under review and she wanted to make sure it was not only assistance with medications in the schools. Ms. Tyranski stated the Board of Nursing statute currently has an exception for emergencies. Ms. Tallman stated the schools will not allow her to send medications with her daughter. Ms. Wolfe stated they are hoping to introduce regulations in November to clarify this which will be prior to this bill being introduced next year, and this will address her need for glucagon this school year.

NEXT MEETING- December 2, 2014 at 3:30 PM Conference Room A, Cannon Building.

ADJOURNMENT- The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pamela C. Zickafoose". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pamela C. Zickafoose, EdD, MSN, RN, NE-BC, CNE
Executive Director
Delaware Board of Nursing